(S)-3-carbon amino alcohol (IV) or (S)-secondary ester/protected alcohol (V), X can be halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy, and preferably is Cl. --

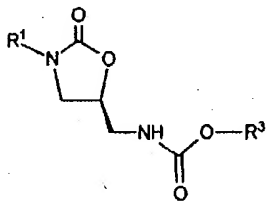
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Alternatively, the transformation from compound (III) to compound (X) or (XI) can be accomplished as a one pot process without isolating amine (IX). It is preferred that the acylating or thioacylating agent is selected from the group consisting of an acid anhydride of the structural formula $O(R^5)_2$, an activated acid of the structural formula R^5X, and a dithioester of the structural formula $R^5S(C=S)R^5$, wherein R^5 is C_1-C_6 alkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6 cycloalkylcarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkylthio-carbonyl, or C_1-C_6 cycloalkylthiocarbonyl, and X is halogen, alkylsulfonyloxy, or arylsulfonyloxy. It is preferred that the acylating agent or thioacylating agent is used in conjunction with a base, such as a tri(C_1-C_5 alkyl)amine. It is more preferred that R^5 is acetyl and X is Cl. Specifically, it is more preferred that the acylating reagent is an acyl anhydride, and most preferably the acyl anhydride is acetic anhydride. --

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 17, 32, and 57-58 with the following amended claims:

17. (Amended) An (S)-intermediate having a general structural formula:



wherein R^1 is an substituted aryl group and R^3 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, or a salt or hydrate thereof, provided that when R^3 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_7-C_{11} araalkyl and R^1 is phenyl, the substituents on R^1 are not hydrogen, monofluoro, monochloro, monobromo, or mononitro